

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 CU-04 INT-08 PC-04 IGA-02

AID-20 OPR-02 SY-10 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

RSR-01 /140 W

----- 043067

O R 251945 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4407

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 2274

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PINT PINS ELAB

SUBJ: STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS CHARACTERIZE TENSE SITUATION

REF: SANTIAGO 2255

1. SUMMARY. CURRENT TENSE SITUATION CHARACTERIZED BY GOVT
BACK- TO- WORK ORDER TO STRIKING COPPER MINERS IN EL TENIENTE,
PRECIPITATE REMOVAL OF MILITARY COMMANDER IN MINE AREA, IM-
PEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST TWO MINISTERS, DEMONSTRATIONS IN
AND PARTIAL PARALYSIS OF CITIES OF RANCAGUA AND VALPARAISO,
PARTIAL CONTINUANCE OF BUS STRIKE IN SANTIAGO, STUDENT MARCH TODAY
IN SANTIAGO, PROTESTS FROM MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION ON ALLEGED GOVT
FAILURE TO FULFILL TERMS OF AGREEMENT ENDING LAST OCTOBER' S
SHUTDOWN,
OUTBREAK OF FARM SEIZURES AND OTHER VIOLENCE IN NUBLE PROVINCE, AND
REPORTED ARRESTS OF PROMINENT GUILD LEADERS. UP AND GOVT ON
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DEFENSIVE WHILE PRO- GOVT MEDIA VIEW SITUATION AS POSSIBLE PRELUDE TO MAJOR CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVT ISSUED BACK- TO- WORK ORDER EVENING MAY 24 FOR EL TENIENTE STRIKERS, APPOINTING TWO INTERVENTORS WITH FULL POWER TO REPLACE STRIKERS AND POSSIBLY PROSECUTE STRIKE LEADERS UNDER INTERNAL SECURITY LAW. IN ANNOUNCING ORDER ON NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK, ACTING PRESIDENT CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA TRACED HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS, CLAIMED MAJORITY OF STRIKERS HAD ALREADY RESUMED WORK, AND ARGUED THAT REMAINDER ARE LED BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO UNDERMINE GOVT ECONOMIC POLICY AND TO USE MINERS TO SPEARHEAD A NEW NATIONAL SHUTDOWN. STRIKE IS NOW COSTING CHILE ONE MILLION DOLLARS A DAY, SAID ALMEYDA. TO PREVENT CONTINUED ACTS OF VIOLENCE SPONSORED BY THESE " INSTIGATORS," HE CONCLUDED, MILITARY UNIT IN RANCAGUA IS BEING REINFORCED AND OTHER STEPS TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN O' HIGGINS PROVINCE.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS IS HAVING FIELD DAY OVER PRECIPITATE CHANGE IN MILITARY COMMANDER OF O' HIGGINS EMERGENCY ZONE, ALLEGEDLY EFFECTED MAY 23 BUT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY. IN WAKE OF MAY 23 SHOOTING INCIDENT IN FRONT OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) HEADQUARTERS IN RANCAGUA (REFTEL), FORMER ZONE COMMANDER ARMY LTC CHRISTIAN ACKERCKNECHT ORDERED SEARCH OF PS BUILDING RESULTING IN ARREST OF 33 PS MEMBERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL PROVINCIAL PS LEADERS, AND CONFISCATION OF SOME WEAPONS. OPPOSITION CLAIMS ACKERCKNECHT WAS REPLACED BECAUSE HE AUTHORIZED THIS RAID; OFFICIAL GOVT POSITION IS THAT HIS REPLACEMENT BY HIGHER RANKING OFFICER, ARMY COL. ORLANDO IBANEZ WHO IS CHIEF OF STAFF OF SECOND DIVISION WITH JURISDICTION OVER ARMY UNITS IN O' HIGGINS AND COLCHAGUA PROVINCES, WAS NECESSARY TO SUPERVISE REINFORCEMENT OF O' HIGGINS GARRISON.

4. RANCAGUA SECONDARY STUDENTS AND OVER 25 GUILDS (GREMIOS) REPORTEDLY STAGING ONE- DAY SHUTDOWN IN RANCAGUA TODAY TO PROTEST SHOOTING INCIDENT. IN WHAT OPPOSITION PRESS INTERPRETED AS GOVT COUNTERPOINT TO ARREST OF 33 PS MEMBERS, 40 MINERS WHO WERE OCCUPYING STUDIOS OF RADIO RANCAGUA WERE ARRESTED AFTER EXCHANGE OF VERBAL INSULTS WITH MILITARY PATROL. OPPOSITION PRESS NOTED THESE PERSONS WERE CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY LAW WHEREAS SOCIALIST WERE NOT. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
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YOUTH (JDC) ANNOUNCED MARCH FROM SANTIAGO TO RANCAGUA TOMORROW IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING MINERS.

5. AS EXPECTED (REFTEL), PDC FILED FORMAL IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST MINLABOR FIGUEROA AND MINMINES BITAR OVER TENIENTE SITUATION. PDC HAS ALSO FILED IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST

VALPARAISO INTENDENTE CARLOS GONZALEZ MARQUEZ FOR ALLEGED BRUTAL SUPPRESSION OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. PN IS CONSIDERING IMPEACHMENT OF INTENDENTES OF NUBLE AND TALCA PROVINCES, FORMER OVER LABOR DISPUTE IN FORESTRY PRODUCTS COMPLEX AND LATTER OVER ALLEGED FORCED INSCRIPTION OF MERCHANTS IN PRICE AND SUPPLY BOARDS (JAP).

6. OPPOSITION PRESS DEVOTED FULL COVERAGE TO YESTERDAY'S STUDENT MARCHES IN SANTIAGO IN SOLIDARITY WITH TENIENTE STRIKERS (REFTEL). STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN VALPARAISO, ALLEGEDLY OVER GOVT EDUCATION POLICY RATHER THAN TENIENTE, LED TO SIGNIFICANT POLICE/ STUDENT CLASHES; TWO BOMBS ALSO EXPLODED HARMLESSLY AT VINA DEL MAR HOME OF APPEALS COURT JUDGE AND MININTERIOR JEEP IN VINA. PARTIAL REPORTS TODAY CLAIM VALPARAISO IS GENERALLY CLOSED DOWN WITH MORE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS EXPECTED. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT FEDERATION (FEUC) MARCHED IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO TODAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH TENIENTE STRIKERS AND TO DEMAND GOVT CHANGE EDUCATIONAL POLICY (REFTEL). U. OF CHILE PROFESSORS AND STAFF MEMBERS BEGAN 24- HOUR STRIKE TODAY. ON HEELS OF MAY 24 MARCH BY MINT STRIKERS (REFTEL), GOVT ISSUED BACK- TO- WORK ORDER AND APPOINTED A MILITARY INTERVENTOR; NO INDICATION WHEN PAPER MONEY PRINTING PRESSES WILL AGAIN ROLL. CUT, MEANWHILE, ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF " NATIONAL FRONT AGAINST CIVIL WAR."

7. BUS STRIKE SETTLEMENT (REFTEL) WITH DRIVERS UNION CAME AT LEAST TEMPORARILY UNSTUCK AND SERVICE IN SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO REMAINS IRREGULAR AT BEST. ALTHOUGH GOVT HAS BASICALLY MET WAGE DEMANDS, DRIVERS HOLDING OUT FOR IMPROVED LANGUAGE IN NEW AGREEMENT AND THREATEN INDEFINITE NATIONWIDE STRIKE IF DEMANDS ARE NOT PROMPTLY MET. GOVT/ BUS OWNERS AGREEMENT STILLHOLDING. TAXIS AND TAXI- BUSES REAPPEARED ON SANTIAGO STREETS THIS MORNING, ALTHOUGH SERVICE FAR FROM NORMAL. A FEW REGULAR BUSES ALSO OPERATING.

8. RAFAEL CUMSILLE, LEADER OF MERCHANTS GUILD WHICH DEEPLY
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RSR-01 /140 W

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O R 251948 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4408

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 2274

INVOLVED IN OCTOBER SHUTDOWN, ISSUED PUBLIC LETTER TO ALLENDE
PROTESTING GOVT FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO TERMS OF NOV 5, 1972 , AGREE-
MENT WHICH ENDED PREVIOUS SHUTDOWN. CUMSILLE SPECIFICALLY
CITED GOVT FAILURE TO PROVIDE CENADI PRIVATE DISTRIBUTOR WITH
ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL CONSUMER GOODS AND UNWARRANTED
INTRUSION OF JAPS IN DISTRIBUTION PROCESS. MERCHANTS DO NOT WISH
TO CAUSE GOVT TROUBLE, SAID CUMSILLE, AND MEETING WITH TOP
OFFICIALS SHOULD BE HELD PROMPTLY TO IRON OUT PROBLEMS.

9. IN NUBLE PROVINCE, PS AND PCCH- CONTROLLED PEASANT ORGANIZA-
TIONS REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED MAY 24 INTENTION TO SEIZE FIFTY FARMS.
PRESS REPORTS TEN FARMS ALREADY TAKEN. SEIZURES APPARENTLY
MEETING SOME ARMED RESISTANCE. IN CHILLAN, NUBLE' S CAPITAL,
PATRIA Y LIBERTAD (PL) AND MIR STUDENTS BATTLED MAY 24 OVER
POSSESSION OF LOCAL SCHOOL. TWO STUDENTS WOUNDED, 21 OTHERS
ARRESTED AFTER POLICE RAIDED PL LOCAL HEADQUARTERS.

10. MIDDAY NEWS BROADCAST TODAY ON PDC- OWNED RADIO BALMACEDA
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REPORTS GOC HAS ISSUED ORDERS FOR ARREST SOME 16 PROMINENT GUILD
AND OTHER LEADERS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF INTERNAL SECURIT

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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BUENOS AIRES
LA PAZ
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